

Amendments In The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that starts on page 6, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 illustrates the center segment of the FIG. 3 embodiment on a larger scale. FIG. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view and more clearly shows the wire 26 being stitched between the sidewalls of the two tubes 20, 22 and also shows the wire [[22]] 26 extending through the end of the separating prong 28.

Please replace the paragraph that starts on page 11, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

The FIG. 8 embodiment is very similar to the FIG. 7 embodiment in which the upper tube 60 and lower tube 62 are joined together at the adjacent surface 64 by a suture [[62]] 66 that doubles back within the wall of the upper tube 60; the one having the prong 68.